

Serial No.: 10/602,525

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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims has not changed, and the total number of claims has not changed.

Telephone Interview Summary

Applicants proposed the above amended Claim 1 to the Examiner for a telephone interview on 06 June 2005. The Examiner agreed that the Mochida Patent does not teach Applicants' claimed invention, and he indicated he would reopen prosecution to reconsider the claimed invention upon the submission of this Amendment After Final Rejection. No agreement as to allowance of any claim was reached.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants amended Claim 1 to recite that the switching element (35) emits a switching signal to confirm when the blocking piece (24) reaches the locking position or transitions from the opened position into the locking position. Support for

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this Amendment can be found at page 3, first paragraph, of Applicants' Specification.

No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Objection

From the Examiner's comments during the telephone interview, Applicants understand the above Amendment overcomes the objection to Claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Mochida, U.S. Patent 4,250,976, is respectfully traversed.

From the Examiner's comments during the telephone interview, Applicants understand the above Amendment overcomes the rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-17.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not resolved in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

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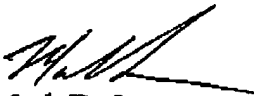
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Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in
condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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